released to the Government of Punjab under the State Component of the ASIDE Scheme during the last three years are as follows:

| SI. No. | Year | Amount Released (in Rs. Lakh) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2002-03 | 900.00 |
| 2. | 2003-04 | 1,000.00 |
| 3. | 2004-05 | 968.00 |

Apart from the above, a sum of Rs. 4 crore has also been released to Punjab Small Industry and Export Corporation (PSIEC) in 2005 from the Central component of ASIDE for the construction of second module Common Effluent Treatment Plant at the Leather Complex in Jalandhar.

**Import Duty on Soda Ash**

2305. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present rate of Import Duty on soda ash;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has requested against further reduction of Import Duty rates to protect the domestic soda ash industry against import; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Soda ash at present attracts customs duty at the rate of 15% *ad valorem.*

(b) and (c) Department of revenue has received a request from Government of Gujarat for maintaining the present rate of import duty. This request would be examined at the time of formulation of the budget for 2006-07.

**Import of Indian Poultry products by Japan**

2306. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has allowed import of Indian poultry products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what help Government will provide to the farm owners for export of poultry products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Japan has approved India as a poultry meat supply country without inspection of poultry plants and will accept the hygiene certificates issued by the Government of India with effect from 13th October 2005. However, if the standards are not properly adhered to, the Government of Japan will stop accepting our hygiene certificates.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase export of poultry products include specification of standards, monitoring of pesticide residues, financial assistance to exporters for developmental and export promotional activities, development of infrastructure/export promotion marketing assistance etc. Recently, as a special measure to boost poultry exports, "poultry and its value added products" have been brought within the purview of the "Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana", under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004—09, with effect from 1st April, 2005.

**Steps to recapture Chinese market for Indian Salt**

2307. SHRI THENNALAG. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China curtailed its import indents for Indian salt by more than half this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether China has also imposed vigorous quality standards on salt imported from India;

(d) whether Indian salt export industry is severely hit by withdrawal of Chinese patronage; and

(e) if so, steps being taken by Government to recapture the Chinese market for Indian salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a), (c) and(d) No, Sir.